

*Salutatory Address 2001
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June 15, 2001*

Change comes to us in many ways. We often struggle to keep things as they are, but it sometimes requires an outside force to inspire us to change these good aspects of life to get better.

This year, this changing force came in the form of a large complex up in the middle of the woods. In a sense, the old educational structure that we had grown accustomed to was cut down and rebuilt in an entirely new, possibly better, fashion. We left the old behind to embrace the new. The result is this school and this group of students: the first graduating class of the East Stroudsburg Area North High School.

The accomplishments that have taken place this year are truly astounding. At the beginning of the year, my impression of this building's architecture was that it appeared very sleek and modern, but also cold. The same can no longer be said. It has taken on aspects of the students housed in it and now reflects their hours of dedication, enthusiasm, and spirit.

For many, it has become a place of realized ambition and new beginnings. For the seniors especially, this school embodies resourcefulness and ambition as a graduating class. A small number chose to come here, and those who did came as pioneers, forging new opportunities for the school community and for themselves. In many ways, we gave up what we had acquired in the course of three years for what we could gain in the course of one year, in hopes that it might be worth it. Most of us still agree that it has, in fact, been worth it.

It seems surprising that so many of the seniors identify so strongly with this school after only one year, but I believe that many see this as their home simply because they have put so much of themselves into it.

For these reasons, I have no doubt that the graduating class will meet with much future success. The qualities that have been demonstrated this year—initiative, leadership, inventiveness, a sense of community, and a sense of self—are qualities that have proven valuable for the future. High school is over, and once again our current lifestyles in our teens will be dismantled and the pieces rearranged into something bigger and more exciting. The challenge will be to adapt, thrive, and make these experiences our own.

If this year is any indication of our ability to accept challenges and turn them into successes, then we will meet with success. I wish my class much luck and happiness in the future and in all endeavors. Thank you!